

## PL/BB DISCREPANCY FACT SHEET

JULY 2018

**OBJECTIVE** This guidance was developed to help leadership and urinalysis coordinators understand the new discrepancy codes.

**BACKGROUND** Proper handling, packaging and shipment of specimens is vital to the integrity of the Military Personnel Drug Abuse Testing Program. A 20 June 2018 memorandum from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (OSD) stated that “effective immediately, a Military Service Forensic Toxicology Drug Testing Laboratory (FTDTL) will carefully inspect for leakage any package or container holding one or more specimens submitted for drug testing, immediately upon receipt”.

### **BASICS WHAT CONSTITUTES LEAKAGE?**

Signs of current or past leakage are assessed when packages are opened at the labs. One of more of the following constitutes leakage:

- Wetness on the specimen bottle or label
- Wetness on the box or packaging materials
- Discoloration/ distortion of a bottle label, box or packaging material
- Signs of crystallization from mineral/urea on the outside of the specimen bottle, box or packaging material

### **WHAT HAPPENS IF LEAKAGE IS DETECTED?**

The PL and/or BB discrepancy codes are applied based on the guidelines below:

- **PL, Package Leaked in Shipment:** code applied if leakage noted in a box/ container holding multiple specimens. The PL code is applied to every specimen in the box and NO SPECIMENS ARE TESTED.
- **BB, Bottle Leaked in Shipment:** code applied if specimen submitted individually and leaked OR a specimen in individual secondary container (single specimen bottle in individual, sealed bag or pouch) shows evidence of leakage that has been contained solely within that secondary container. ONLY THE AFFECTED SPECIMEN(S) IS/ARE NOT TESTED.
- **PL & BB, Bottle and Package Leaked in Shipment:** codes applied to a bottle in an individual pouch/bag with leakage noted outside the individual pouch/bag. The leaked bottle receives the BB and all specimens in the box receive the PL. NO SPECIMENS ARE TESTED.

### **ARE THESE SPECIMENS TESTED?**

These are fatal discrepancies. No specimens with a PL, BB or PL/BB are tested and the bottles are destroyed.

### **WHEN DID THE LABS START USING THE PL/BB DISCREPANCIES?**

Retroactively applied to specimens held starting 18 June 2018 once OSD policy released.

PREVENTING  
LEAKAGE

**HOW CAN I REDUCE/PREVENT LEAKAGE?**

- Reach out to your service point of contact for guidance on specimen packing.
- For Navy commands, the 2017 guide for Urinalysis Program Coordinators can be accessed at: [http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/21st Century Sailor/DDD/policy/Documents/OPGUIDE%20Guide%203%20UPC.pdf](http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/21st_Century_Sailor/DDD/policy/Documents/OPGUIDE%20Guide%203%20UPC.pdf)
- Additional Navy resources for packing and packing supplies can be found at: [http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/21st Century Sailor/DDD/Pages/NDSP.aspx](http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/21st_Century_Sailor/DDD/Pages/NDSP.aspx)
- For Marine Corps commands, the 2017 Marine Corps Urinalysis Program Coordinators 4<sup>th</sup> Edition can be obtained from the Installation Drug Demand Reduction Coordinator. For additional resources and information for packing and packing supplies email [DDRP@usmc.mil](mailto:DDRP@usmc.mil)

**WHAT IF I SHIP MULTIPLE BOXES IN A LARGER BOX AND ONE LEAKS?**

Specimen boxes shipped in a secondary box (e.g. torpedo box) are assessed for leakage independently. If leakage is contained within the leaked box, the applicable leakage discrepancies will be applied only to that box.

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POINTS OF  
CONTACT

If you have additional questions regarding specimen packaging/ shipping or the retesting of affected Service member specimens, please reach out to the point of contact for your service.

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